Export growth in gems and jewellery

*304. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council expects around 10.per cent export growth in the current fiscal year over the previous fiscal year;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be netted out of the exports;

(c) the details of thrust markets; and

(d) the status of exports of cut and polished diamonds during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current financial year, endeavour of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is to achieve the target of US $ 9992 million from the export of gem & jewellery.

(c) Thrust markets of GJEPC for the export of gem & jewellery continues to be the USA, Hon Kong, Belgium, Israel & UAE. However, GJEPC always takes steps to explore new markets.

(d) As per data made available by Directorate General of Comercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the exports of cut & polished diamonds during the first quarter of the current financial year *i.e.* April, 2003 to June, 2003 has been Rs. 7610 crores (provisional) as against Rs. 7987 crores during the corresponding period of the last year.

Growth centres In Andhra Pradesh

*305. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start more growth centres in Andhra Pradesh to develop industrially backward areas in the State;

(b) if so, the areas identified for the purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether performance of the existing growth centres is not satisfactory;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of the resource utilization by these centres during the last three years; and

(g) the steps being taken to improve the performance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c)The Growth Centre Scheme was announced in the year 1988 and became operational in 1991 for industrialisation of backward areas in the country. Under the Scheme, 71 Growth Centres were allocated to various States on the basis of combined criteria of area, population and industrial backwardness. Of these, 68 Growth Centres have been approved so far of which four are for the State of Andhra Pradesh namely Hindupur (Distt. Anantpur), Bobbili (Distt. Vizianagaram), Ongole (Distt. Prakasam) and Khammam (Distt. Khammam).

(d) and (e) The Growth Centres at Hindupur (Distt. Anatpur), Bobbili (Distt. Vizianagaram) and Ongole (Distt. Frakasam) have already become functional and are at various stages of implementation. With regard to Growth Centre at Khammam, the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested for change of location to Jedcherla (Distt. Mahaboobnangar) due to non-acquisition of land at Khammam. This request of the State Government has been agreed to.

(f) During the last three years, total resource utilization comprising of the assistance released by the Centre, State and its agencies was Rs. 191.73 lakh in case of Ongole (Distt. Prakasam), Rs. 34.75 lakh in case of Bobbili (Distt. Vizianagaram) and Rs. 87.70 lakh in case of Hindupur (Distt. Anantpur) Growth Centres.

(g) Implementation of the Growth Centres by the State Government is monitored closely by the centre on the basis of Quarterly Progress Reports received from the State Government and in Review Meetings held with the State Government from time to time.